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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.Q. Box 1550 Alexandria, VA

23313-1450, on the date shown below

ad August 31, 2005

Signature:

Patent Docket No. 393032024300

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

The Patent Application of:
Shinichi ITO et al.

Serial No.: 09/823,704

Filing Date: March 30, 2001

For: INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM

AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

METHOD USING NETWORK

Examiner: E. P. Leroux

Group Art Unit: 2161

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b. Copies of foreign documents and non-patent literature are submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

The documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b were cited in a Notice of Grounds for Rejection mailed on June 21, 2005 directed to a foreign application and have not been previously cited. A certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) follows:

I hereby certify that each item of information was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

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la-815288

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action

or Notice of Allowance.

A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly; no fee is

believed to be due.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08a/b, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

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37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under

been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist;

(iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling;

or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the

Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a

fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including

extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petition and/or other

fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**

referencing (393032024300).

Dated: August 31, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Fehrman

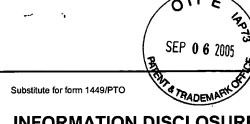
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of

| Complete if Known | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|
| Application Number | 09/823,704 | | | |
| Filing Date | March 30, 2001 | | | |
| First Named Inventor | Shinichi ITO | | | |
| Art Unit | 2161 | | | |
| Examiner Name | E. P. Leroux | | | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 393032024300 | | | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.1 | Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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| | FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|--|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.1 | Foreign Patent Document Country Code³-Number⁴-Kind Code⁵ (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ | |
| - | ВА | JP-2000-357191 | 12-26-2000 | Hitachi Ltd. | Abstract Only | | |
| · | BB. | JP-11230762 | 08-27-1999 | Sony Corp. | Abstract Only | | |
| | ВС | JP-6187359 | 07-08-1994 | Fukutake Shiyoten KK | Abstract Only | | |
| | BD | JP-7191668 | 07-28-1995 | Roland Corp. | Abstract Only | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if information considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁵ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---|----------------|--|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No.1 | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² | |
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| Examiner | Date | |
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